

NCNA HEADS AND TALES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

MOTTO— TO PROMOTE AND TO SERVE
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATICS

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Editor

Michael S. Turrini

Mailing Address

PO Box 4104
Vallejo, California 94590-0410

1987 NCNA OFFICERS

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Constance Perham	First Vice-President
Ron Miller	Second Vice-President
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DEADLINE FOR TWENTY-FIFTH ISSUE March 29

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THE MINT DIRECTOR'S PRONOUNCEMENTS: President's Message

Dear Members,

Our 1986 Coin Show and Exposition is behind us, and we are now commencing to focus on next year's Coin Show and Exposition, the first weekend in October 1987. Make a note of the date. Now, on with our hobby.

We are in the midst of a revolution, of sorts, in the event you did not know it: a grading revolution on one hand and 'what-to-join' on the other hand.

Lets deal with grading first. Anyone and everyone in authenticating and issuing a diploma with each coin on which they render a grade. From one grading outfit to another, you still end up with a great divergence of opinions as to what each believes a certain coin might be graded.

What does it mean? It is game playing. Game playing with your money and peace of mind. This whole charade came into being during a lull in the coin industry and because the investment buffs did not want to visit a drop in the market scene, mainly because it had a tendency to dampen the buying ardor of the buying public.

While sharper grading has made the whole process laudably more critical, this ploy ostensibly to correct certain fallacies in our approach to coin grading, actually has been used as a camouflage to cover a drop in the market nearly across the board. Like it or not, the prices on coins do fluctuate, both UP and DOWN!

A whole host of new designations are showing up. Either adding to or replacing the familar ones we knew and used. All numbers from 1 to 70 are being deployed together with now grading each side of the coin. In addition to these Mint State Numbers, we are still witnessing the use of descriptive superlatives. We would not be a bit surprised to eventually discover that we will soon see coins graded as follows:

Obverse: MS-65½(b) Choice With Allure
Reverse: MS-64½(k) Select With Tinge Of Pastel
Edge/Rim: MS-62+(g) Strictly Natural
Holder: Standard Plastic, A 7 (1 to 10 Scale) Clear

Question is: where does a novice go to register? Who has the best and most reliable grading service? Will they truly soon start grading rim/edge separately? It is difficult for the writer to risk putting his tail into a crack by suggesting a particular grading service; a natural inclination is to play it safe and only recommend as certainly acceptable is our own American Numismatic Association's (ANA) ANACS service and conclude that others could be likewise.

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THE MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends,

First, in response to my editorial pleas in the July and October Issue of NCNA Heads and Tales on securing Ozzie Stout a 'Numismatic Ambassador' award, Virginia Hall, Editor of the California State Numismatic Association's (CSNA) Calcoin News, wrote informing Your Editor that she will nominate, according to the 'Numismatic Ambassador' procedures, Ozzie Stout for the 1987 year selection cycle.

It is good that at last someone has responded, and I hope that in the balloting Ozzie will be selected and soon awarded this high honor.

I thank publicly Virginia Hall, respected Editor of the Calcoin News and active coin hobbyist, for taking this initiative.

Second, as most NCNA Heads and Tales readers know, Lucky Williams, self-styled silver round king, was murdered last November 1st. Although he was not an NCNA Member, he was active in several coin clubs in the northern California area. He was a well-known and vocal booster of our hobby. His loss has cast a void upon many fellow coin clubs and hobbyists, and as he contributed and participated, his loss is severe.

For me, Lucky's passing hurts very deeply as I felt very close to him and respected his opinions and advise. He was one of the few people that I have known that I could turn to, talk with, and trust most openly.

For me, numismatics has proven a blessing. It has benefited me in knowledge, in experience, in monetary terms, in flattery, and so forth. It has given me many acquaintanceships and friendships, people dear to me, a source of inspiration and bulwark of refuge.

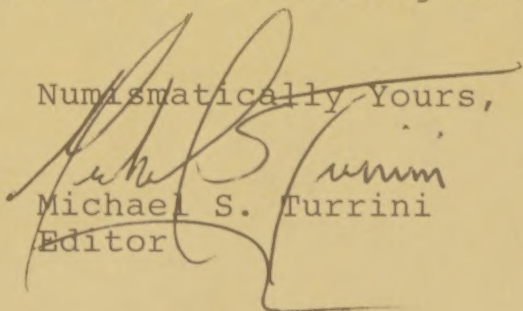
For me, numismatics has equally been cruel. Too often, the finality of life, death, has taken someone. Gone swiftly is the inspiration and bulwark. Lucky is only one of several that I fondly wish were still here.

For me, for us all, it is easy, very easy, to forget our hobby is first and always people. It is easy until it is too late to forget this most obvious, but least practiced, fact.

For me, for us all, let us together never forget that our hobby is people. People--right or wrong, poor or rich, educated or ignorant, young or old, Republican or Democrat, handsome or homely, and so forth--that deserve our tolerance, our cooperation, and our respect.

For me, for us all, it should be the credo of nothing less than The Golden Rule.

Numismatically Yours,


Michael S. Turrini
Editor

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GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

Board of Directors Meeting

The first 1987 Quarterly Meeting will be on February 1, 1987, 1:30pm, Sunday, at the usual location in the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness and Geary, San Francisco.

Dates for the remaining 1987 Meetings have not been scheduled; however, as is always true, all NCNA Club Members are warmly, and strongly, encouraged and invited to send a voting Club Delegate.

1987 Dues

Notices for dues will be mailed out within the next month or so. Both Individual and Club Members are reminded to remit promptly.

National Coin Week Enticement Program

Will not be repeated in 1987. This Program with its cash grants to local coin clubs, because of various factors was not budgeted for 1987. NCNA remains committed, however, to repeat the Program or something similar in 1988. Thanks to these Coin Clubs that responded and promoted the April 1986 National Coin Week:

Vallejo Numismatic Society
San Jose Coin Club
Fairfield Coin Club
Cupertino Coin Club
Reno Coin Club
Diablo Numismatic Society
Liberty Numismatic Society
Fremont Coin Club
Delta Coin Club
Gateway Coin Club
San Francisco Coin Club
Solano Silver Round Club

1987 Coin Show and Exposition

Is scheduled for September 30, October 1, 2, and 3, 1987, Thursday through Sunday, first weekend in October, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

Bourse will be over a hundred tables. The Bourse Coordinator is Ron Miller, NCNA's Second Vice-President and well-known coin activist; he may be contacted at: "Ron Miller, Fremont Coin Gallery, 3769 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, California, 94536; '415-792-1511'".

+++++ Educational events will emphasize Bay Area coin hobbyists and their expertise and support within the hobby. Any coin hobbyist who would like to present a program or talk during the 1987 Coin Show and Exposition please contact Your Editor as to details and arrangements.

Coin Club Promotion of the 1986 Coin Show and Exposition

Your Editor thanks these Coin Clubs for advertising via their Club's periodical the past 1986 Coin Show and Exposition. All, long ago, should have received their recent dated Proof Set(s):

Fairfield Coin Club
Delta Coin Club
Vallejo Numismatic Society
Redwood Empire Coin Club
Peninsula Coin Club
Reno Coin Club
Fremont Coin Club
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
San Jose Coin Club
Globe Traders
San Francisco Coin Club
Southeastern Sierra Coin Club
Cupertino Coin Club
Stanislaus County Coin Club
Los Gatos Coin Club

Coin Club List

As an effort to attract membership to Coin Clubs in northern California, enclosed with this Issue is NCNA's Coin Club List, coordinated by O. L. Wallis. NCNA Heads and Tales readers, who received a copy of the enclosed Tenth Edition with their October Issue, are requested to share this enclosed List with their fellow coin hobbyists.

The importance and effectiveness of this List depend on its widest dissemination. Please Share. Additional copies gladly provided. Copies may be obtained from either Your Editor or directly from O. L. Wallis. Needless to say, he is in constant need of updated and correct and current facts on Coin Clubs. Please contact him at: "O. L. Wallis, NCNA Coin Club List, 58 Tan Oak Circle, San Rafael, California, 94903".

Greater Houston Coin Club

And the Editor of its periodical, Double Shift, Ira E. Levinson are seeking to exchange with coin clubs across the nation club periodicals.

Your Editor proudly endorses and encourages this extensive and noble effort and believes that such exchanges would via ideas and promotion

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would benefit those coin clubs involved. At the least, it would give direct insight into what other groups are doing, a ready source of ideas and inspiration.

Northern California coin clubs interested are invited to write to:

Ira E. Levinson, Editor
Double Shift
Greater Houston Coin Club
PO Box 2963
Houston, Texas 77001

One of the achievements of NCNA Heads and Tales has been to encourage and to make progress on greater inter-coin club communication and exchanges within our region. The ramifications on the national level are enormous.

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POSTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION: To Silver Round Collectors

Lucky Williams

By now most NCNA Heads and Tales readers know that Lucky Williams, coin hobby booster and silver round enthusiast, was murdered last November 1st. Although there are rumors and some leads, there seems at this time little hard evidence nor suspects.

Lucky's place of business, actually owned by another coin dealer, Golden Hills Coin Exchange, has been closed.

As for his world famous silver round collection, the last known verifiable count was 1948 total different. Since numerous rounds were on order, the collection presently is in excess of 2000. His widow, Marie, intends to continue the collection, although not at Lucky's intensity or involvement.

Lucky's last numismatic activity was attending the October 29th one ounce silver dollar First Striking Ceremony at the San Francisco Assay Office with his wife, Your Editor, and Your Editor's Mother.

Solano Silver Round Club

To SSRC Members and Purchasers of Its First Silver Round: due to Lucky's death and other factors, Your Editor has found himself in charge of this impending silver round. To this end, Masterpiece Medallions, the minter, has been instructed to strike this issue with delivery by late January or early February.

As the Club is currently in a very precarious existence and to ease

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BRANCH MINT REPORTS: Club Happenings

Have been receiving bulletins, newsletters, or news releases from these Coin Clubs:

Vallejo Numismatic Society
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
Fremont Coin Club
Peninsula Coin Club
San Francisco Coin Club
Fairfield Coin Club
Diablo Numismatic Society
Cupertino Coin Club
Gateway Coin Club
Delta Coin Club
Fresno Numismatic Society
Napa Valley Coin Club
Redwood Empire Coin Club
Sacramento Valley Coin Club
Reno Coin Club

Vallejo Numismatic Society Will hold its 15th Annual Vallejo Coin Show this April 26, 1987, Sunday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, at Dan Foley Cultural Center, Dan Foley Park, Tuolumne Street, Vallejo. Admission is Free, and there is ample free parking and easy access to the Center. The multi-event one day Vallejo Coin Show will feature a forty-plus table Bourse, displays, open meeting of the Solano Silver Round Club which annually gathers at the Vallejo Coin Show, drawings, one for gold and one for silver, free woods, Youth Table, Information Table, and more. The main attraction will be a slide illustrated talk by G. LEE KUNTZ on 'To Sink A Die'. KUNTZ is owner of Masterpiece Medallions. Bourse Tables are still available. Write: "Vallejo Coin Club, PO Box 4281, Vallejo, CA, 94590". The 1987 VNS Officers selected at its December 3rd Meeting will be: DR. HOWARD C. LOSNDALE, President; HAROLD SALAS, Vice-President; LORI LONSDALE, Secretary, and STAN TURRINI, Treasurer. The next big event for the VNS after its April Vallejo Coin Show will be its 400th Meeting on July 1st. Former members are encouraged to contact the VNS.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Elected its 1987 Officers: DAVID CIENIEWICZ, President; DAVID W. LANGE, Vice-President; DON T. THRALL, Treasurer, and FRANK STRAZZARINO, Secretary. Recent PCNS Meeting speaker was RICK WEBSTER on Celtic Coinage at the November 18th Meeting. Christmas Cheer and Election of Officers closed the 1986 PCNS year at its December 17th Meeting.

Fremont Coin Club Elected its 1987 Officers: DON MCALISTER, President; ROGER LYLES, First Vice-President; DON EHLERS, Second Vice-President; CARL SNYDER, Treasurer; IRIS ATKINSON, Recording Secretary, and VINCE LACARIERE, Corresponding Secretary. October 28th Meeting was FCC's Annual Junior Night with Junior Vice-President GEOFFERY GREEN presiding and was assisted by TIM GREEN,

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TORI BARNES, NATHAN CAMPBELL, BRIAN ROSE, CHRIS SNYDER, CRAIG ROSE, LARRY PASCUA, and DINO DANIELS. Would someone from the FCC inform Your Editor on what DON BARSİ and Toilet Tokens have in common? Sounds different and interesting.

Peninsula Coin Club Continues to meet in the Community Room of the California Federal Savings, 2181 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, on the Second Monday of each month. Its Meeting Themes have been: October 13th, United States Copper Coins; November 10th, What I Acquired At The PCC Show Yesterday, and December 8th, My Favorite Coin.

San Francisco Coin Club Annual and long-time Coin Fair, for now, has been cancelled or at least postponed to later in 1987. Reports state costs, problems of location, and dates conflicts were the factors. Recent SFCC Meeting activities have been: October 28th, HANS HANSSON, "History of the Swedish Mint"; November 25th, White Elephant Auction conducted by dual star team of STAN TURRINI and MIKE STANLEY, and December 23rd Christmas Party which included a Pot Luck dinner; turkey cooked courtesy of HANS HANSSON. Your name had to be either TOM KELLEY or STAN TURRINI to win at the SFCC's November Meeting Drawing. TOM KELLEY also claimed most of the items in the White Elephant Auction. The September Other Hobbies Night had: Lottery Tickets, RON JOHNSON; Old Post Cards, MONA VERZI; Emdroidered Pillows, ROSE HUNTINGTON; Computer Programming, GARRET JOHNSON; Genealogy, GROVER CAGLE; Philatelics, HANS HANSSON, and Teddy Bears, VICKI SEELIG.

Fairfield Coin Club Had its Annual Other Hobbies Night at the October 22nd Meeting: Comic Books, CRAIG CONYERS; Minature Liquor Bottles, JAN HENKE; Beer Bottles, RON KELICHNER; Garbage Pail Kids Stickers, JENNIFER KELICHNER; Baseball Cards, DAVID NUNES, and Post Cards, STAN TURRINI. The recent main event at the FCC was its Annual Christmas Social on December 20th held at the local Anheuser-Busch Brewery which included 'Proof Nite' in the drawing with over \$300.00 value of prizes. At this Social, FCC's highest honor was presented to both GEORGE FLANAGAN, past officer and Life Member, and STAN TURRINI, current Vice-President and booster, namely the Rich Neily Memorial Award. JOE SIROIS was also honored for his three years at President.

Diablo Numismatic Society Heard SFCC President HANS HANSSON talk on Swedish Coings at its November 20th Meeting. The October 16th Meeting Show 'n Tell of 'Worst Looking Coin' had an excellent response: MIKE STANLEY, STEWART HUCKABY, MARK CLARK, GEORGE TYSON, KARL HEUER, SAM RUMPH, JIM DOYLE, DALE BRYANT, HAROLD ZACHARIN, NORTON GLOSSMAN, and KARL MANTHEI, a great response and participation to an apparently provocative topic. DAVID PARRISH as of the January Issue will be the DNS' Diablo Die-Break new Editor.

Cupertino Coin Club Recent speaker has been GARY ACQUISTAPACE, October 3rd, on 'South American Numismatics'. November 6th Meeting was the CCC's Annual Junior Night with Junior Vice-President

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RONDA JOHNSON presiding. Following Junior Members presented brief talks: NATHAN MILLER, 1914D Lincoln Cent; MICHAEL LOWE, Franklin Half; MICHAEL BAER, New Zealand Mint Coins; KELLY CAROLAN, 1968 Canadian Proof-like Set; JENNIFER JOHNSON, Hall of Fame Baseball Medals; JEREMY FRIEDENTHAL, Misstruck Coins; TOMMY CAROLAN, 1982 Washington Commemorative Half, and RONDA JOHNSON, George Washington Medal. CCC's newest Life Members are: GARY ACQUISTAPACE, TOM ARMES, CHARLENE COY, KATHERINE RAY, and SHELDON WIRT.

Gateway Coin Club 1987 Officers will be: DUC EBERT, President; TOM ANDERSON, Vice-President; BOBBIE LEE, Secretary, and VIRGIL KRAMER, Treasurer. GCC closed its year with a Christmas Banquet at Merced's Wine Cellar last December 4th and a large auction at its December 18th Meeting conducted by the "sterling auction efforts" of HOWARD WESELEY. Out-going President BRUCE FROHMAN was commended for his efforts "to breath a little life into the group".

Delta Coin Club Your Editor wishes SYD KASS, DCC's Newsletter Editor, would not write so much. Also, don't type in all CAPS; it is hard to read. JIM HART spoke on Tokens at the DCC's October 6th Meeting and MICHAEL FUERTAS talked on Commemorative Coinage at the November 14th Meeting.

Fresno Numismatic Society Had retired History Teacher DALE HEWLETT do a Coin Quiz at its October 14th Meeting. Continuing a long-time FNS tradition, funds from the FNS' Coin Show Raffle plus donations from members were given to the Salvation Army's Toy-for-Tots. In reviewing the recent FNS' Coin Show, JOHN PETERS, Editor of The Fresno Numismatist, candidly wrote what is true for any Coin Club: "Did you make an effort to attend? A majority of you will answer no and it doesn't make sense. The club puts the show on for its membership. If the membership doesn't promote the hobby and support the shows, the hobby will die. Get active for the hobby's sake".

Napa Valley Coin Club Voted unanimously to award in recognition of his service to numismatics OZZIE STOUT one of its first club medals, silver medal #99, which was presented to him by STAN TURRINI and GENE FEIERSTEIN on December 28th at the Stout Estate in Sonoma. Numbers 99 have special meaning to the Chinese as good luck and longevity. The December 17th Meeting was the NVCC's Second Annual Gold Night which packed them in for the prizes and goodies.

Redwood Empire Coin Club Now meets on the First Wednesday evening in the Orchard Community Center, 1945 Piner Road, Santa Rosa. JESS PATRICK on the Larkfield Coin Shop spoke on Coin Trends at the November 5th Meeting. RECC's 1987 Officers are: AL KOPFMANN, President; DON HOMESLEY, Vice-President; HELEN ROBERTS, Treasurer, and GARY JOHNSON, Secretary.

Sacramento Valley Coin Club SVCC member BOB TRAVIS in the October

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Issue of the SVCC Newsletter reports several interesting facts about the usage of Large Cents: "In New England, the Large Cent was considered a symbol of good luck. When a house or barn was constructed, a Large Cent was nailed to the ridgepole to assure financial success for the family"; "Notched Large Cents were used as means of identification by those who were fighting slavery in the United States. A slave being helped to freedom would be given a cent notched in a particular location for identification on his or her way North"; "Large cents were also used in the slave trade. A company in Salem, Massachusetts provided thousands of holed Large Cents to tribal chiefs in Africa in exchange for slaves, who would be brought to America. Apparently, most of the coins dated 1799 were lost at sea while being transported to Africa for that purpose. Thus, a great American rarity was created.", or "Many early frontiersmen shaved the rim from a Large Cent, notched it, and mounted it on their rifle for a sight". Again, Your Editor commends the informative and interesting reporting done in the SVCC Newsletter.

Reno Coin Club Recent RCC's Meeting speakers have been: United States Half Cents, September 2nd, JUNE BLACK and JIM MELICK; Exhibiting, October 7th, ED HOFFMAN; Toned Dollars, November 4th, LARRY DEMANGATE, and Anthony Dollar, December 2nd, GARY MECKLER. RCC always has a strong program schedule and an active participating membership. Although Your Editor has never attended an RCC Meeting, it is clear that everyone contributes. For example, DOUGLAS MCDONALD has agreed to remain Editor of the Reno Coin Club Newsletter even though has moved to Medford, Oregon! RALPH WYCOFF "quickly volunteered" to replace him as Librarian.

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Continued From Page 6:

Your Editor's burden, these silver rounds will not be numbered. Somehow those reserving SSRC silver rounds will receive theirs, hopefully by March 1st. Purchasers are asked to be patient.

To SSRC Members and Purchasers of Its First Silver Round: if you have a question, contact Your Editor via NCNA Heads and Tales post office box.

To clarify, the total mintage will be one hundred silver one ounce rounds with no off-medals.

As attempt to keep the SSRC going, a meeting will be held during the Vallejo Coin Show on April 26, 1987, Sunday, at Dan Foley Cultural Center, in Vallejo. This will be an open meeting with any silver round enthusiasts welcomed. This gathering will be held in conjunction with G. Lee Kuntz's talk, 'To Sink A Die', presented at the Vallejo Coin Show. All SSRC Members are urge to attend.

Continued From Page 2:

Just as baffling are the various opinions circulating on the authentication of coins. These too, the buyer ends up putting his or her faith in the one he or she trusts the most. Counterfiets are becoming so perfected and sophisticated that they will elicit conflicting opinions from the so-called experts.

Take a look now at coin hobby organizations, local coin clubs regional groups, and the like. What do you join? None if you are not an avowed fan of the hobby. For starters, the American Numismatic Association (ANA) is a must if for no other reason than to support the hobby! Then, your local coin clubs and regional groups offer the best potential for education, a sense of participation, a chance to rub elbows with true believers such yourself, and, again, MAINLY to support our hobby that harkens back to Biblical Times.

NCNA offers all the above, and the dues is a paltry sum of two dollars per year. A true bargain!

A rational conclusion about this revolution is that this olde hobby is very definitely becoming a complicated endeavor. Our humble advice? Hang-in-there. It can not get much worse--that is, perhaps--and that is a firm maybe.

Try It. You may like it! Lotsa Luck.

Very Truly Yours,

Denis N. Hooker
President



NCNA Heads and Tales
Michael S. Turrini, Editor
PO Box 4104
Vallejo, California 94590

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